

little bit more like we do in Iowa: family and neighbors first, common sense, hard work, and—as always—a little bit of Iowa nice.

TAX EMANCIPATION FOR THE RICH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, in what seems to be a concession to the most far-right members of the Republican Party, the Republican leadership has scheduled a vote on the alleged FairTax Act that would completely overhaul the tax system to blatantly favor the rich.

The proposed legislation would abolish the Internal Revenue Service and eliminate all Federal taxes, including the estate taxes and corporate income taxes. In place of Federal taxes, the bill would impose an effective 30 percent national sales tax across the board.

The working class would face a substantially higher tax burden as a result, and the richest Americans would receive a sizeable cash reward. It is difficult to overestimate how regressive this tax would be, and according to the tax experts, it would have a wide range of detrimental effects, not just on income taxes but also on items like Affordable Care Act premiums and the child tax credit.

The Republicans claim that they are the party of working people, but they appear to be making an effort to demonstrate that they are absolutely not that. Some of the wealthiest people in our country can pay exceptionally low tax rates, avoid paying taxes on their largest assets, and pass their fortunes on to their children tax-free because of the many ways the tax system is set up to enable corporate taxpayers to avoid paying taxes.

Conservatives have spent decades creating this kind of tax emancipation for the rich while waging a fierce battle against attempts to reinstate tax enforcement against the 1 percent. This just further advantages the wealthy by giving them more opportunities to take advantage of the working class. In Florida's 20th District where the median household income is under \$55,000 a year and families already struggle to make ends meet, the FairTax Act will put my constituents at a unique disadvantage.

There is nothing fair about the FairTax Act. This is a handout to the rich. Americans will feel the weight of this 30 percent sales tax on necessities like food and gas.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reconsider this legislation and work with House Democrats on the most pressing issues that face our country.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Jason M. Brock who served 32 years in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Colonel Brock began his military career as an enlisted member in 1991 and worked hard during his service to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee in 1994.

In 1998, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Since then, Colonel Brock has served in a variety of assignments as a logistics readiness officer and a maintenance officer, and has deployed numerous times in support of multiple operations including Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Southern and Northern Watch, Joint Guard, and Noble Eagle.

During his assignment as director of staff for the State of Tennessee Air, he also supported many domestic operations, including Tennessee's military response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colonel Brock plans to retire this year, and it is a well-earned retirement, Madam Speaker. He plans to spend more time with his wife and his two sons on family outings to the lake and camping. He also has his private pilot license, and he looks forward to enjoying more time in the sky.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our armed services, like Colonel Brock, who served and sacrificed for our freedom. It is my honor to recognize Colonel Jason Brock as the Tennessee Second District's January 2023 Veteran of the Month.

MIDWAY IGA

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe and Dale Longmire on selling Midway IGA and retiring from the grocery business.

Claude and Ruby Longmire started Longmire Grocery in Corryton in 1947. They raised Joe and Dale in the grocery business, and they worked very hard in this their entire lives.

In 1988, Madam Speaker, Joe and Dale bought the Midway IGA right there on Tazewell Pike, as you well know.

Joe and Dale say the community has been very good to the Longmires, and the Midway IGA has been very good to the community. They have been great friends of mine. When you go in there, Madam Speaker, local kids work there. They work the counters and they work everywhere. They have some of the best fried chicken—I believe it is actually called broasted fried chicken—that I have ever had, except, of course, what my wife and my sweet mama used to make.

Of course, my family and I trade at the IGA on a regular basis, and the Longmires supported me when I first ran for mayor. They were some of the first people who came out and supported me. They had a fundraiser for me at their house. They live on Emory Road, the same road I live on now. Emory Road is a very long road, Madam Speaker. I actually went to the

wrong end of Emory Road, and I was 1 hour late to my own fundraiser; but it just increased the anticipation of my arrival.

The Longmire brothers have said that nothing about the store will change, which I am very glad to hear. Midway IGA has been great to our community, and I hope we don't lose that.

I wish their sister, Leesa, the best as she sticks around the store as their scanning manager. I wish Joe and his wonderful wife, Becky—who has been a dear friend to me and my girls a long time—and Dale and his wife, Ellen, the best in their retirement.

Joe plans to finish a book he has been researching about the history of Corryton. I look forward to getting an autographed copy which I am sure I will pay dearly for.

PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm. Extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that will hurt working families. For 2 years House Democrats have delivered for everyday Americans.

The economic progress that House Democrats and President Biden have led is simply remarkable. So let's talk about this significant growth Democrats have made possible by President Biden's economic plan.

We created 11 million jobs. Under Trump we lost 2.9 million jobs.

The unemployment rate is at 3.5 percent—one of the lowest rates in our history. Under Trump it was 6.3 percent.

We lowered healthcare costs for working families. Under Trump, 3 million more people lost their insurance.

We capped insulin at \$35 for our seniors on Medicare.

We expanded Medicare and Social Security benefits.

This is progress, but this progress is threatened by extreme MAGA Republicans.

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While most Americans are worried about post-COVID prices at the grocery store, the extreme MAGA Republicans in charge of the House GOP want to increase the average family's costs for groceries and everyday essentials by hundreds of dollars every month. That is right, Madam Speaker, raising it by hundreds a month.

They are doing this by championing a new 30 percent national sales tax. The House MAGA Republicans would jack up the prices on the products that we rely on. Imagine paying in my district 30 percent more when you go to HEB for your groceries.

This kind of blanket tax increase is failed economic policy that attacks the foundation of our economic growth and hurts working families.